

Tuesday August 6 1996

Table with exchange rates for various countries including Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Why the hostage wives won't give up Searching for the truth

How looks can deceive So you think you're ugly?

Education Are A levels easier?

Fury at US law to curb terror

Europe vows to defy Clinton

and the EU to decide with whom they will trade...

Resident Bill Clinton yesterday defied his allies...

He brushed aside the angry vows of retaliation by Britain...

With the European Union, Canada and other countries...

"Where we don't agree, the United States cannot and will not refuse to do what we believe is right..."

"You cannot do business with countries that practise commerce with you by day...

"Iran and Libya are two of the most dangerous sponsors of terrorism in the world..."

"I hope and expect that before too long our allies will come around to accepting that fundamental truth..."

The Foreign Office said yesterday it could not accept the US threat of sanctions against British companies...

In an unusually curt statement, the Department of Trade and Industry said it regretted the president's decision to sign the legislation...

Britain Millions of phone numbers will be changed within the next five years...

Michael Lynton, who grew up with a Penguin in his pocket...

Mr Lynton, president of Hollywood Pictures, which made Crimson Tide and The Rock...

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The Confederation of British Industry said the "law catches the 'great concern'..."

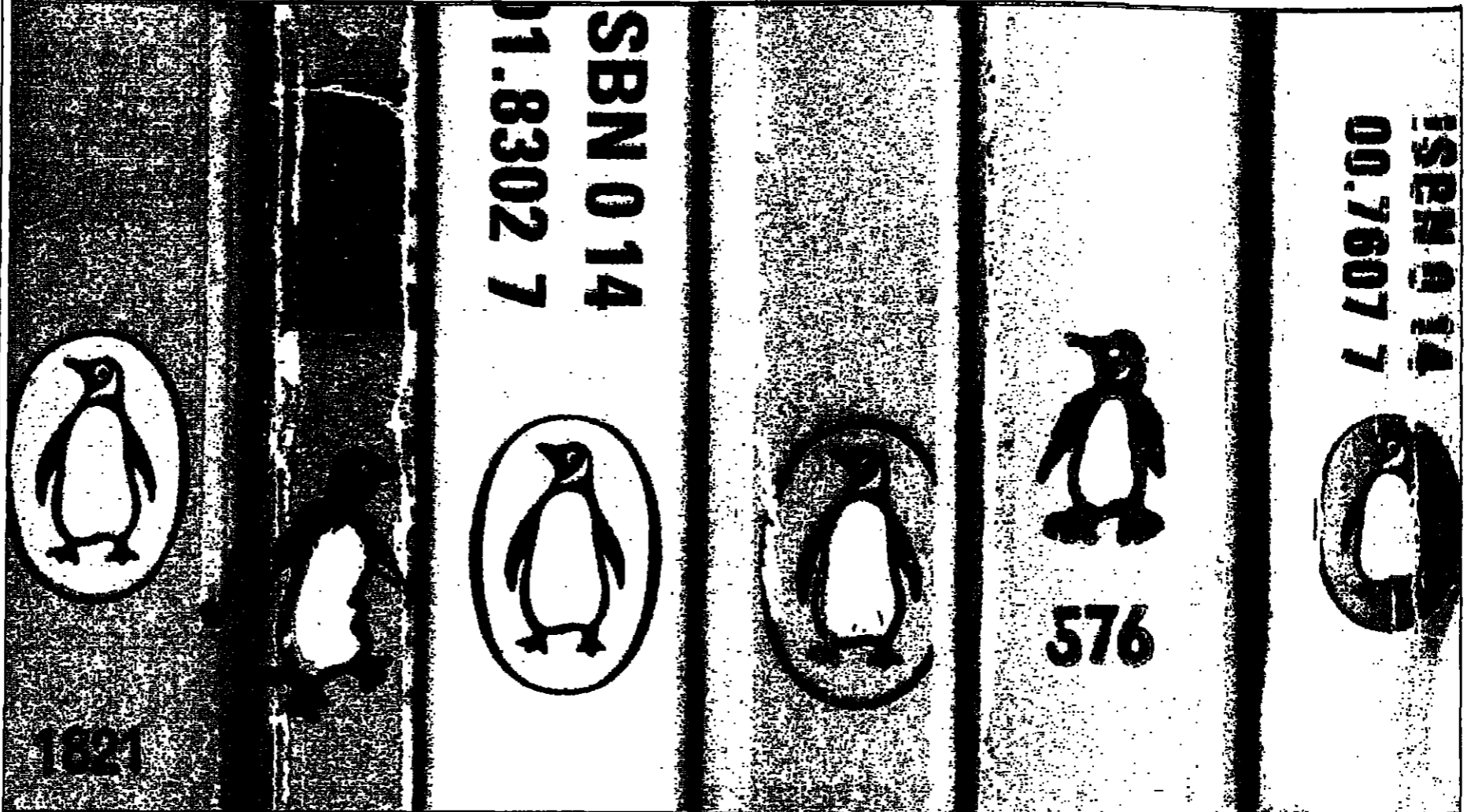
The most recent figures, for 1984, show EU countries exporting just over £3 billion-worth of goods to Iran...

The president's statement at George Washington University was timed to pre-empt the unveiling of the economic plan of his election rival...

World News Bob Dole tried to kick-start his presidential campaign with a 15 per cent tax cut...

Finance HSBC, the global giant which includes Midland Bank, unveiled the highest six-monthly profit figures in corporate Britain's history...

Sport A compromise by England on Monday after TV rights appeared to have saved them being thrown out of rugby's Five Nations championship...



Hollywood boss turns new page at Penguin

Michael Lynton

owned by Pearson plc, the British information, publishing and entertainment group...

in profitable authors." Mr Mayer talks fondly of the authors who bring in vast amounts of cash for Penguin...

Mr Lynton, who grew up with a Penguin in his pocket, became chairman of the world's best loved publishing house yesterday...

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commercial fiction to Bruce Chatwin's books in the field of literature...

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Disney as manager of business development in the consumer products division...

Mr Mayer said: "He's someone with a fine education in both the humanities and business which is unusual..."

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Advertisement for Abbey National with text: 'WHEN YOU'RE TIRED IT'S GOOD TO HAVE AN INTEREST'.

Advertisement for Abbey National with text: 'After years of working hard for your money'.

Advertisement for Abbey National with text: 'Abbey National Investments'.

Penguin books list including titles like 'Ariel' by Audre Lorde and 'The Namesake' by Viet Thanh Nguyen.



Michael Lynton: 'He's bound to succeed'

Mail monopoly broken

Lang takes on postal workers after union announces four new 24-hour strikes

THE Government last night confirmed its intention of moving against striking public service workers...

Yesterday's announcement came shortly after Alan Johnson, CWU general secretary, had declared that Royal Mail's refusal to reopen negotiations over its plans for American-style "teamworking" had left the union's executive "very little alternative" to calling further 24-hour stoppages...

Mr Johnson dismissed the withdrawal of the 136-year-old monopoly as a "bit of crude politicking by the Conservatives, who believe it will earn them Brownie points with the public..."

He said people would see that the Government, which had failed to privatise the Post Office two years ago, wanted the dispute to continue...

Mr Lang countered with a pre-election revival of the language of the early 1980s. He said it was "wholly unacceptable that a group of extremists within the CWU are able to hold the country to economic ransom..."

Last night Labour refused to condemn the postal walkouts. Stephen Byers, Labour's employment spokesman, said: "We are not playing politics with this dispute..."

Anti-abortion group offers £25,000 to save twins

Chris Millill and Nick Varley

A PRO-LIFE group last night offered the pregnant woman who wants one of the twins she is carrying to be aborted £25,000 if she allows both babies to live...

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children said the offer was aimed at allowing the woman - a single mother of limited means - financial security to bring up both twins...

The offer came on top of one from an Italian anti-abortion turn to page 3, column 7

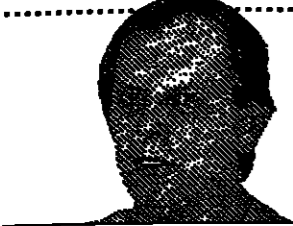
Leader comment, page 2; Women, G2, page 4

Comment and Letters 8, Obituaries 10, G2, Crossword 15, Weather 16, Radio 16, TV 15



Sketch

Rich pickings at the Magpies' nest



Peter Hetherington

TODAY the homecoming. Multi-million-pound man, the most expensive footballer of all time, arrives at St James's Park for his debut.

With thousands chanting outside in a huge car park, cleared for the occasion, he will mount a special, black and white bedecked stage in the middle of a stand.

Surrounded by the club's effective owner, property developer Sir John Hall, manager Kevin Keegan and other directors, he will tell the world, and 1,400 workers imported from the club's brewery sponsors across the road, why Newcastle United is so special to him.

With a signing-on fee of £2.5 million, basic pay of £1.2 million a year, an estimated £3,000 per match — or £5.17p for every second on the pitch — and much more besides, you can understand why.

The restless bosses of the Premier League runners-up, who have forked out more than £50 million on Britain's most expensive team, will return the compliments. Then Alan Shearer will mount another, second stage opposite the car park for more adulation.

Some have likened it to the Second Coming. "Shupid, isn't it?" smiled one longstanding unemployed fan, clutching a ticket for the FA Charity Shield against Manchester United at Wembley on Saturday ("At more than £400 a shot, I couldn't afford a season ticket").

He can't remember an event to match the return of Shearer, local boy made mega-rich who, some have suggested rather unconvincingly, wants to rediscover his Tyne-side roots.

Throughout the day, and over the previous night, fans excluded from the club's Park by the club's high prices, queued and camped for 35,000

Charity Shield tickets. Some brought foil blankets to keep out the cold. The contrast between the super-rich stars and the lowly fans could not have been greater.

"It's nothing to do with Shearer," said 20-year-old Colin Patterson, unemployed, like many in the queue. "I would be here if he wasn't coming. I'm a true supporter."

At the front of the queue, Tammy Graham, aged 20, thought the club could be terribly unwise over pricing. "People who've gone for years can't afford to get in now. I suppose that's business."

Her office worker colleague, 24-year-old Amanda Cox, couldn't quite come to terms with Shearer's salary. "I earn less than half his weekly wage for the whole year," she gasped. "He'd better play well."

Newsagent Anthony Joyce was uneasy. "Frankly, £15 million is an obscene amount. A lot of people think it's a joke when set against all the cutbacks taking place elsewhere. But then again, I suppose nothing is cheap these days."

Unlike the rest of the team, Shearer at least has a clean sheet — and, crucially, is free from the humiliation of a Far East tour when an unknown Japanese side, called Gamba Osaka, "cut through the Newcastle defence like a Samurai sword through butter."

Keegan seemed embarrassed. Few players came out of the game well. Many more might have to fight for their places. "I'm glad we were not playing the best in Japan," he said yesterday.

And that's the point, surely. You can make big signings — Ginola, Ferdinand, Asprilla — but you can't, necessarily, buy a first class team. The cheque book, sometimes, has its limitations, as Sir John Hall found out last season.

This time there can be no excuses. A vast business empire is being built on the assumption that Newcastle will — must — win the Premiership. They also have to win on Sunday. And Shearer, the saviour, has to perform — quickly. There can be no excuses. It is a terrible burden to carry.

First night

Modern Hamlet's timeless appeal

Brian Logan

OXFORD Stage Company's crisp new Hamlet is set in 1966 to give it, we are told, immediate appeal. There is little in the look of the production to suggest our time. But that all the better points to monarchy's endemic, stultifying antiquity.

Matthew Wright's set too, a vast tomb etched in filigree gold with a litany of the Danish dead, hints at the weight of ages encumbering the players in this unfolding scene.

The production starts abruptly and never lets up. William Russell, as Claudius, is an incoherent brother — one slick and sharp-suited, the other, not unreasonably, more sombre. It is no wonder Gertrude falls into Claudius's arms. Wipe the smile off his face — as his stepson soon does — and he is a dead ringer for her dead hubby.

The pair are feted by a clipped Court, all canned enthusiasm and bloodless smiles. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern represent its ghastliest excesses — precisely the sort of immaculately preened, class-wonders with whom mum and dad would make you hang out.

On the skull-duggery's sidelines, Colin George is an excellent Polonius, deploying a comic timing and lightness of touch strongly reminiscent of Richard Briers. Ophelia, as ever, is so wishy-washy she might have drowned before the show began — like Den-

mark's other literary icon, the Little Mermaid, she's wet, wet.

Ian Pepperell's Hamlet reminds us that the play is very much of our age. The diminutive figure he cuts is poignantly ineffectual, like "the glow-worm's fire", full of futile rage against the iniquities of the adult world and his own adolescent impotence. It is Holden Caulfield, pin-sized Prince of Denmark. He steps himself indulgently in the drama in which fate has cast him, while also, palpably, suffering from it — when he hies Ophelia to a nunnery, we feel his hurt, not hers. Pepperell renders this cyclone of confusion with a vivid and instinctively likeable freshness and variety. To say that interest in his Hamlet never pall — strange, yes, but true — is no exaggeration.

Gladstone once called Disraeli a rhetorician inebriated on the exuberance of his own verbosity. This Hamlet — too young, of course, to be inebriated — is at least diverted by his.

"To be or not to be" seems a self-serving digression. Not for him the dashing decisiveness of Laertes. With his taste for words Hamlet may already know that, with a name like Fortinbras, the Norwegian has ultimate victory in the bag. So he does, seizing the Danish succession with effortless simplicity quite stunning in the dying heat of some slaughterous swordplay. All eyes rest on the extinguished Hamlet, crumpled on the throne. To see this take on his travails is not to "send those eyes on vacancy". On the contrary, we are never less than engaged.

Thousands give Royal Mail their stamp of approval

ROYAL Mail has shot to the top of the popularity stakes in a survey of 12 public utilities and services published today by the National Consumer Council, just as the Government announced it is suspending the Post Office monopoly over the resumption of industrial action.

Almost 90 per cent of the 2,043 people interviewed were pleased with the speed of the postal delivery service and 80 per cent were happy with Post Office counter services, putting the two branches of the last nationalised industry at numbers one and three in the table. Royal Mail's satisfaction rating has increased sharply since 1990 — when 68 per cent were content.



Prostitutes' services on display in a telephone box in central London. About 150,000 calling cards are placed in phone boxes in the capital every week

Prostitutes who place 'sex for sale' calling cards in phone boxes to be cut off

PROSTITUTES who advertise their services in telephone boxes are to have their phones cut off in an attempt to rid city centres of their calling cards. Incoming calls to "sex for sale" numbers will be barred by engineers operating under new rules agreed by the main telecommunications companies.

About 200 prostitutes are thought to be responsible for the hard core of payphone advertising in the capital, paying "card boys" around £10 for every 100 they put in boxes. The changes represent a victory for Westminster city council, which has fought a four-year campaign to force industry regulator Ofcom and the Government to change licensing rules.

A pilot scheme to cut the calls floundered because prostitutes argued successfully that BT was breaking its promise to provide a "universal service". The changes, expected to be introduced in a fortnight, particularly affect central London, Brighton and parts of Manchester where card-calling is most evident. But the rule changes will also hit taxi firms, window cleaners and other small businesses.

BT, which collects thousands of cards each day from its boxes, will act as a clearing house for other companies whose numbers are advertised. The calls will be logged on computers and when they appear more than eight times, letters will be sent to subscribers. They will be given a week to explain, or promise not to continue the service, before another letter is sent threatening to cut off incoming calls.

New upheaval for phones

Running out of numbers (again)

- Urgent, needed by 2000: London, Belfast, Cardiff, Reading, Portsmouth, Southampton, Aberdeen, Guildford, Spurnmouth, Middlesbrough, Coventry, Preston, Cambridge, Stoke-on-Trent, Brighton, Oxford, Bradford, Wolverhampton, Derby, Wigan.

Cost dismays businesses as codes change again to meet explosion in demand

As businesses pondered again having to update stationery, signs and computer programming, a British Chambers of Commerce spokeswoman said: "We are slightly disappointed they didn't get it right the first time. I think businesses may be finding it a bit wearisome to go through it all again."

EU tries to break Mostar deadlock

A SECOND European Union deadline passed yesterday evening without agreement on the formation of a multi-ethnic council in Mostar, as tensions surfaced between the Bosnian town's Muslims and Croats. EU officials reported a shooting incident last night on the outskirts of town as community leaders remained locked in talks. Initial reports said a Croat car came under fire in a Muslim district, but it was unclear if there were any casualties.

European ruling on guest beers 'disastrous' for real ale

BREWERS and beer drinkers rushed to the defence of British bitter last night in the face of the latest threat from Brussels to force pubs to take European draught beers. The move — taken under single market legislation — warns of possible legal action by the European Commission if imported draught beers are not admitted.

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Advertisement for Eagle Star home insurance. Text: "If your home insurance company doesn't deliver these MOVE". Includes a list of 8 questions to ask a broker and contact information for Eagle Star Direct at 0800 333 800.

Staff... save... ground... becoming... site for... business... school... with... £20m... Wafie... There... let more... stake... than... planning... application...

Saudi

Fame sol

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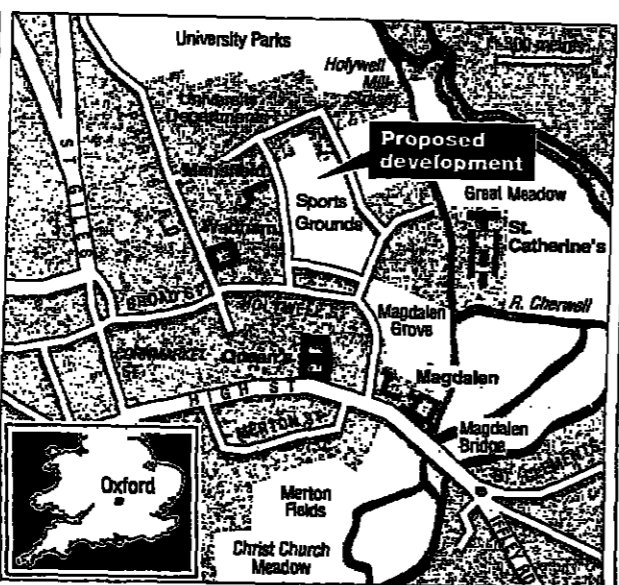
Staff fight to save sports ground from becoming site for business school built with help of £20m from Wafic Said. 'There is a lot more at stake here than a planning application'



Giving and receiving: Wafic Said (top) insisted Oxford build the management school on the sports ground site (above)

# Saudi gift plays havoc at Oxford

STUART MILLAR  
IT WAS billed as the most generous gift to Oxford University in 50 years. But a £20 million donation by Wafic Said, a Saudi entrepreneur, to build a management school has caused a bitter row.



Staff have questioned the ethical implications of accepting the donation from Mr Said. A Commons committee of inquiry was told that the Syrian-born businessman was the agent for British Aerospace defence deal with Saudi Arabia, although he denies he is an arms dealer.

College, is "ideal for such a world class building". The plan has enraged local residents and has been greeted by strong cross-party opposition on the council, according to Mr Woodin. A poll of neighbours found around 70 per cent against. He said: "I don't think the council will back it, but it's what happens when the appeal goes to the Department of the Environment that worries me. I am afraid there will be political as well as planning considerations."

Stef Spencer, chairwoman of the council's planning committee, said: "We will judge any application on its merits. But on our local plan, the sports ground is shown as an important recreational site." She said councillors had been dismayed by the way some in the university had presented the development as a fait accompli.

# Fame school seeks £2m rescue

DAVID WARD  
LIVERPOOL'S fame school, funded in part by Paul McCartney and opened six months ago, could go bust if a rescue package of at least £2 million is not stitched together by the end of the year. The cash crisis is the result of a building scheme which cost £15.5 million, £3 million more than the original estimate.

Famous first words  
"We've got to get it right this time. We've got to raise it to the sky."  
Line from a Paul McCartney number sung by students at the inauguration ceremony.

"I'm proud that my old school is now back in use helping the next generation... I feel sure that the students attending this wonderful new school will make us all proud of their efforts and the eventual success I hope many of them will have."  
Paul McCartney.

version and an extension is being worked out with builders Balfour Beatty. The European Regional Development Fund contributed £4.6 million and Liverpool City Challenge gave £3.4 million.

# RUC orders march to be re-routed

Owen Bowcott  
PROTESTANT Apprentice Boys planning to parade through a Catholic flashpoint in south Belfast next weekend were yesterday re-routed by the police in an attempt to forestall violence 70 miles away in Londonderry.

But the police decision to re-route the Apprentice Boys' feeder parade, which passes through the Lower Ormeau Road in south Belfast before marching are bussed to Londonderry, infuriated loyalists in Belfast. Sandy Geddis, of the Apprentice Boys' Walker Club, said: "It's a deplorable decision made in the face of threats of violence. We've walked that road for over 90 years and there has never been trouble. We've done everything to make sure it was not triumphant."

# Anti-abortion group offers mother £25,000 to keep twins

continued from page 1  
group, Movement for Life, which offered to pay the woman £140 a month if she allowed both twins to live.

rous" level that some gynaecologists had reached. He said the charity was contacted on Sunday by a benefactor who wanted to donate £1,000 to the woman. It was decided to set up an appeal to help her and other women in the same circumstances. A further £2,000 was pledged in a few hours yesterday.

The villagers shifted from foot to foot, uneasy. Their faces creased in sympathy. But they were silent. And when the clouds lifted, and the rain eased, there was still no clue to the fate of the four western tourists kidnapped by Kashmiri separatist gunmen last summer.

# G2 cover story

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No, you're not seeing things, a Direct Line mortgage can save you around £50\* a month. Whether you're moving house or simply moving your mortgage, there are no arrangement or survey fees. Mortgages are available for up to 90% of the property value or purchase price, whichever is lower and there is no mortgage indemnity premium to pay. We don't charge early redemption fees either.

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# Ex-soldier admits IRA bombing

Owen Bowcott and Conor Foley

**A** FORMER Parachute Regiment cook who deserted in Northern Ireland at the height of the Troubles yesterday pleaded guilty to leading the IRA's bombing of Ripon barracks in north Yorkshire 22 years ago.

Peter McMullen, nicknamed "Pete the Para", had spent nine years in a New York prison fighting extradition even though he had admitted causing the explosions.

Grey-haired and leaning on a walking stick, McMullen, 49, said little when he appeared at York crown court to plead guilty to four charges under the Explosives Act. Sentencing was postponed until October.

There were no warnings for the four bombs at Claro Barracks, near Ripon, in March 1974 which devastated buildings and injured the managers of a NAAFI shop. The devices had been triggered by cheap Japanese alarm clocks. It was the Provisional IRA's first bombing of an army barracks in Britain.

Born in Magherafelt, Co Londonderry, McMullen joined the British army in 1963, a career move not uncommon for young Catholic men in the loyalist areas torn when the First Battalion of the Parachute Regiment was posted to Northern Ireland in the early 1970s.

The final split came in January 1972. In an interview last year, before returning to Britain, he said he had feared what his fellow paratroopers were planning. "There had been confrontation on a march a few days beforehand," he recalled, "and they were talking in the mess about the need to show the

marchers who was boss." He deserted three days before Bloody Sunday, when 14 nationalist protesters were shot dead in Bogside by soldiers from his regiment.

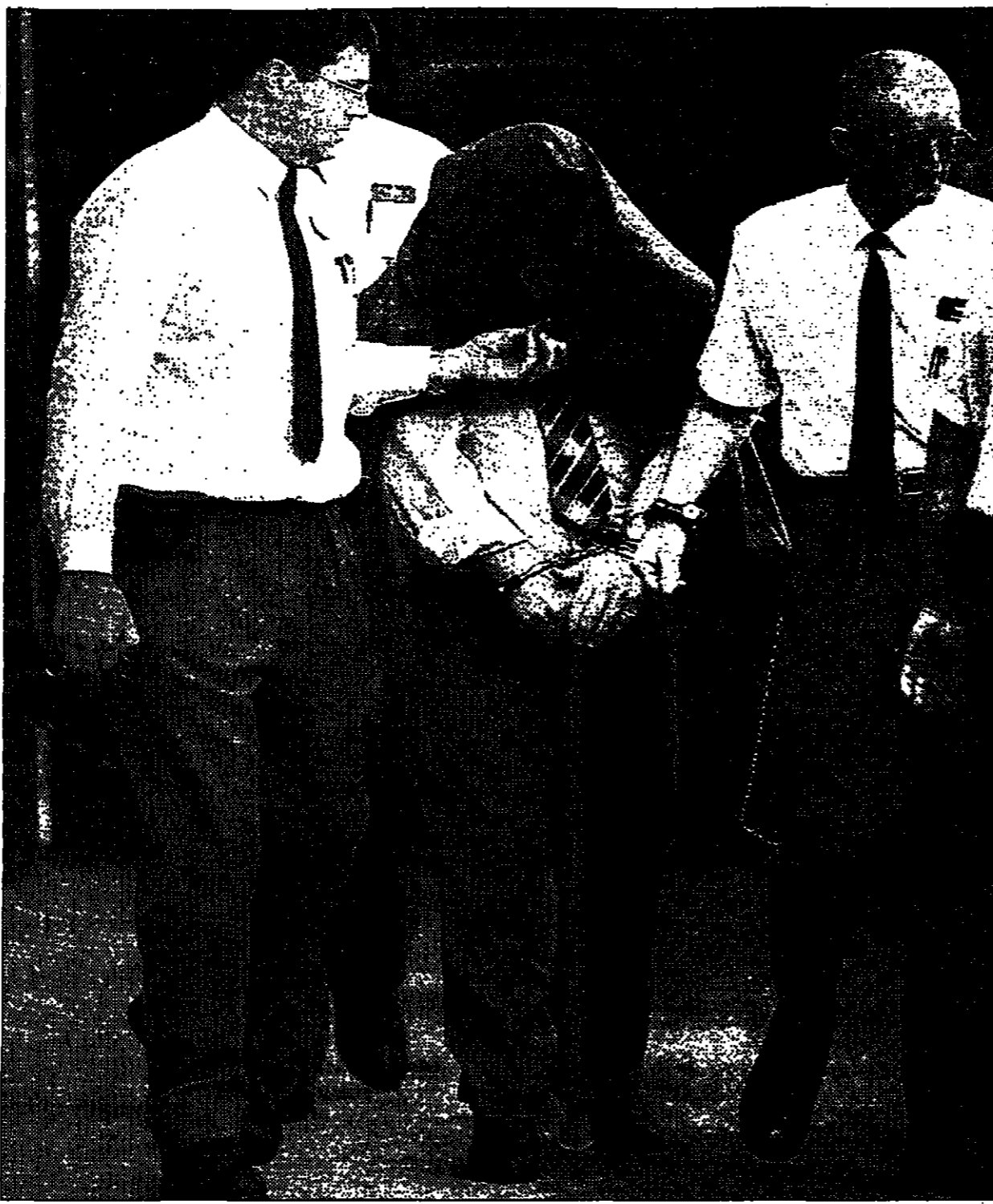
He used family connections to contact the IRA and the Belfast Brigade welcomed his military expertise. After carrying out the Ripon bombings, he was arrested in Dublin in late 1974. He served five years for arms offences, during which, he claims, he became disillusioned with the IRA because of the pub bombings in Birmingham and Guildford.

After release he was sent to the United States on republican business but was recalled to face an IRA court martial. He fled back to New York and sought political asylum to avoid deportation for being an illegal alien.

His complex predicament left him a lonely figure, cut off from the support of republican circles and facing extradition proceedings to Britain. Despite being granted political asylum — the first time such a category was conferred on an IRA suspect — his case became the subject of protracted legal wranglings.

In 1986 he lost his right to stay and was preparing to return to Dublin voluntarily when a new extradition treaty with Britain came into force. After nine years, mainly in New York's Metropolitan Correction Centre, he accepted he would have to return to face the British courts.

When Gerry Adams, then president of Sinn Féin, visited Washington in November 1994, he was said to have handed President Clinton a list of 20 people in US custody whose release would advance the peace process. McMullen's name had allegedly been crossed off.



Peter McMullen, the former Parachute Regiment cook, being led away from court to await sentence for leading the IRA attack 22 years ago on the Ripon barracks (below) which devastated buildings and injured the managers of a NAAFI shop

## Battle continues for return of Ulster's wanted men

**E**XTRADITION proceedings against other republican suspects, including four who escaped from the Maze prison in 1983 and fled to the United States, have continued despite paramilitary ceasefires in Northern Ireland, writes Owen Bowcott.

The cases against Kevin Art, Jim Smyth, Terry Kirby and Paul Brennan are still being pursued by the Northern Ireland Office.

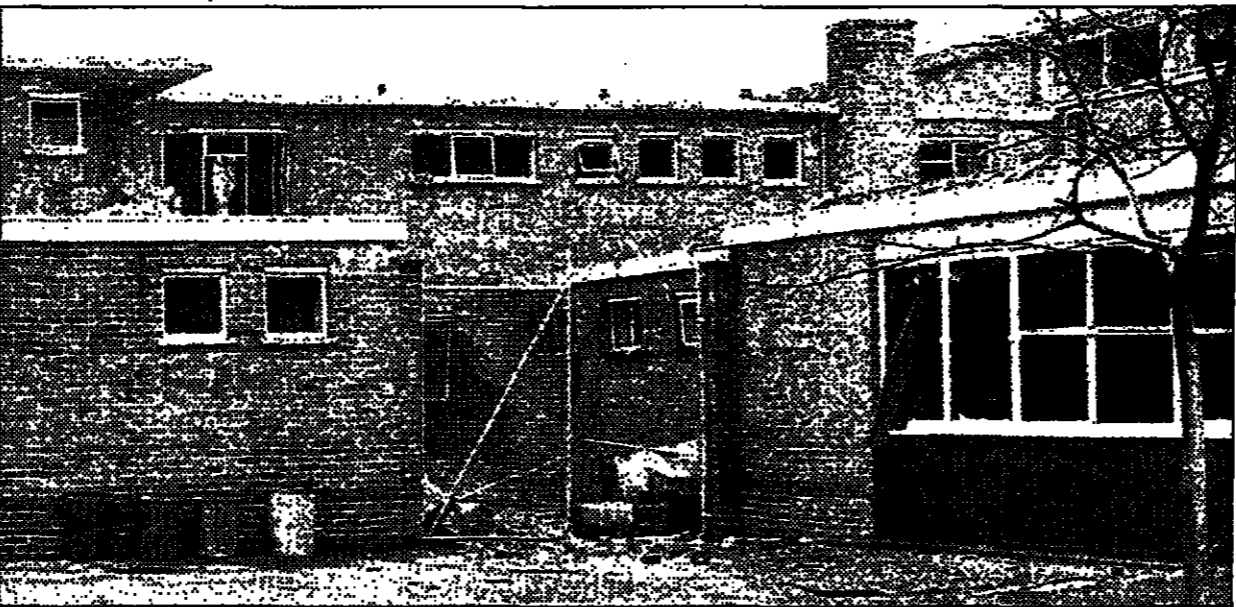
All four have resisted attempts to return them to the United Kingdom for trial, claiming their offences were political and their lives would be in danger in Belfast.

Art and Kirby had been serving life for murder,

Smyth 20 years for attempted murder and Brennan 16 years for possessing explosives.

Smyth, now 42, married an American woman and worked as a house painter in San Francisco. The US Supreme Court rejected his appeal. He is due to be deported shortly unless President Clinton intervenes.

Pearse McCauley and Nesson Quinlan, who broke out of Brixton prison, south London, in 1981, are wanted in connection with conspiracy to murder Sir Charles Tibb, the former chairman of Whitbread. Extradition attempts were forced to wait while both men served sentences in the republic.



## Exam chiefs attack limit on number of A level re-sits

**E**XAMINATION board chiefs yesterday condemned government plans to limit permitted re-sits in new "pass-as-you-go" A levels.

Kathleen Tattersall, secretary of the Joint Council for GCSE Boards, said she found speculation about this year's results "deplorable".

Moves to change regulations covering modular exams before the first results were known were "ridiculously premature".

The Department for Education and Employment confirmed yesterday that ministers plan to limit the number of times students can re-sit modules in the new exams, in which only 30 per cent of marks come from a final written test.

One option being considered

is to allow just one re-sit, and insist if students get a poorer grade, that should stand.

The department issued yesterday's statement amid predictions that pupils taking modular courses for the first time in significant numbers this year will boost the A level pass rate.

Almost one in four of this year's A level grades in maths, English and the sciences will be the result of modular courses.

Traditionalists are already alarmed that the 10 percentage points rise in pass rates over five years is devaluing the academic standards.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, MP, a one-time headmaster and former Tory education minister, said modular A levels were "not worth the paper they are written on". He said: "There

is no comparison between a two-year A level course examined at the end and a modular A level course examined over short periods, which pupils can sit again and again until they pass."

But Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, said that was "an absolute slur on the hard work that students, families and teachers put in".

Ms Tattersall, chief executive of the Northern Examination and Assessment Board, said Sir Rhodes's comments were a "typically British response to improved attainment. It seems that if there is an improvement there must be something wrong."

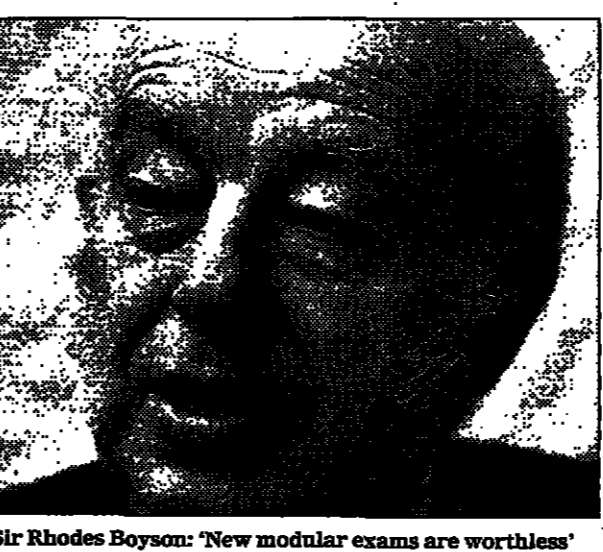
"The idea that students should be allowed to re-sit, but then held to a lower mark

if they don't do any better is like asking them to take part in a lottery."

Labour will today publish figures which show a huge leap in the number of parents falling to secure their first choice school for their children, writes Rebecca Smithers.

The Department for Education figures, obtained by Labour MP Stephen Byers in parliamentary answers, relate to appeals lodged with local education authorities.

They show that in 1994/95 there were 54,427 appeals by parents covering all schools. Of these, 38,032 were heard and 23,169 automatically rejected. Of those heard, 40 per cent (14,638) were found "in favour" of the appellant, which means the LEA has to send the child to the parents' original choice of school.



Sir Rhodes Boyson: 'New modular exams are worthless'

### News in brief

#### Morocco holds two Britons over drugs

TWO British tourists were yesterday arrested at Casablanca airport by Moroccan customs officers allegedly trying to smuggle 5kg (11lb) of hashish to Britain, a police spokesman said. They were named as Sally Louise Griffith, 18, and Louise Claire Martins, 28, both of Harwich, Essex.

The British consulate confirmed that the two tourists were arrested but said it could not comment on the possible charges.

Police said the tourists bought the hashish in the central city of Fez, Morocco earlier this year, launched a crackdown on drugs smuggling and has arrested German, French, Spanish and Hungarian nationals for alleged trafficking.

#### Golden eagle chick reared

GOLDEN eagles have successfully reared a chick at their only known nest in England for the first time in three years. The fledgling took its first flight at the closely monitored site in the Lake District where wardens from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds maintain a 24-hour guard. Eagles have nested in the remote Haweswater area since 1969, arriving from their main British stronghold in the Scottish Highlands.

But the resident pair's failure to raise a chick since 1993 had raised fears that the nest might be lost. Andy Bunten, RSPB regional officer, said: "This is tremendous news for a special pair of birds and for all the volunteers and staff who have shown such dedication in safeguarding these birds from accidental disturbance or egg collectors' raids." — Martin Wainwright

#### Water firm fined £175,000

A PRIVATISED water company was fined £175,000 yesterday for poisoning one of the best salmon rivers in Britain. Severn Trent admitted leaking chemicals into the River Wye killing 33,000 salmon. Cardiff crown court heard that the leak was the company's 34th conviction since privatisation in 1990.

Mark Bailey, prosecuting for the National Rivers Authority, said the pollution from the Elan Valley water treatment works at Rhydydd, Powys, had "catastrophic consequences" for the river. "An estimated 33,000 young salmon were exterminated by this leak, which affected eight kilometres of river."

Judge John Prosser told company executives sitting in the court that the leak was due to a combination of design defects, gross mismanagement and inferior maintenance. The company, which pleaded guilty to two counts of polluting and contaminating the river, was also ordered to pay costs and compensation totalling almost \$44,000.

In mitigation, Severn Trent's barrister, Benjamin Nicholls, told the court the chemicals leaked through a hair-line crack in a pipe which was repaired as soon as it was spotted.

#### Man held on shotgun death

POLICE were last night questioning a man about the death of a Tory activist at his home in Norfolk. Robert Bull, aged 58, from Ringland, near Norwich, died of shock and haemorrhage caused by shotgun injuries, Norfolk police said. A 29-year-old local man was helping police with their inquiries. No one else is being sought in connection with the death.

Mr Bull, a retired post office senior manager, was a prominent member of the Costessey Conservative Association and a friend of the local MP and former cabinet minister, John MacGregor. His son Nicholas, aged 28, a car salesman who lives in the same home, is the former vice-chairman of a local branch and unsuccessfully stood for the parish council in May. Mr Bull was described by friends as a gentle, unassuming man, whose main hobby was DIY and gardening. — Alex Bellis

#### Springsteen's court move

BRUCE Springsteen is heading for a High Court confrontation over what he claims are bootleg copies of his hit double album *Unearthed*. He has issued a writ against Flute International Ltd, of Bristol, and Robert Tringham, of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, seeking damages.

Additionally, he is seeking a court order restraining them from copying or authorising the copying of any part of the musical and associated literary works in 28 songs from *Unearthed*. He is also seeking injunctions restraining them from selling, offering for sale, and from parting with possession of recordings of his performances.

#### 'Rotten boroughs' warning

ENGLAND is faced with a swathe of "rotten boroughs" where relatively few voters can help determine which party controls their cities, the Liberal Democrats claimed yesterday. Some wards in local authorities had at least double the electorate of others despite the fact they all returned three councillors, said the party in an appeal for a review of electoral boundaries.

In Liverpool the largest ward had 16,600 electors compared with 4,544 in its smallest. In Sheffield the largest was 25,069, the smallest 9,134, and in Manchester wards ranged in size from 5,468 to 11,878.

David Rendel, the party's local government spokesman, said the flight of population to the suburbs had helped to create Labour fiefdoms. "The return of the rotten boroughs has all but destroyed democratic choice in many areas," he said. — James Melkie

#### 'Bring back my children' plea

A WOMAN yesterday pleaded with her former husband and her mother: "Please bring my children back." Sara Holmes, 27, was backed at Norwich crown court by Judge David Mellor. He made the two boys and a girl wards of court in a move to get Iranian Hamad Mirzal, 33, and Mrs Holmes's mother, Pauline Jasper, 53, an auxiliary nurse from Lowestoft, Suffolk, to return them.

Mrs Holmes, of Martlesham Heath, Suffolk, said she had married in March 1986, after meeting Mr Hamad at Lowestoft college for further education. She left her husband, a Lowestoft taxi driver, about a year ago and last week they were divorced.

Mrs Holmes has custody of the children, aged nine, seven and three, with reasonable access by her husband and her mother, with whom she lived until the divorce. She said they had the children for a month during the summer holidays. Judge Mellor yesterday asked for publicity for the case so that the children can be located.

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Germany takes on

Minister will not to change in st

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مكتبة الجليل

Bonn wants calves of infected cattle slaughtered

# Germany raises stakes on cow cull

Ian Traynor in Bonn

GERMANY yesterday moved towards a fresh confrontation with Britain over mad cow disease when Bonn demanded that the selective culling programme for British BSE-infected cattle be widened to include calves.

Bonn also ordered further domestic action aimed at curbing the perceived threat of BSE, attacked the European Commission for being over-hasty in relaxing the export ban on British cattle products, and insisted that the commission re-examine promptly the efficacy of Britain's programme to eliminate the disease.

German officials flatly contradicted last week's Ministry of Agriculture statement that fresh evidence that BSE could be passed from cow to calf need not affect the Government's action plan.

"We are demanding that the selective culling programme be extended to the last-born calves of BSE-infected cattle," said Werner

Zwingmann, head of the veterinary department at the German agriculture ministry. Whitehall revealed last week a new study, showing that BSE could be transmitted maternally in cattle. "The UK eradication plan for BSE already acknowledged this possibility... All the measures necessary to protect public health are already in place."

German officials yesterday indirectly criticised what they clearly view as British complacency on BSE.

The agriculture minister, Jochen Borchert, said Brussels had to act swiftly in reviewing the programme already agreed for tackling BSE in Britain.

The new evidence "means we have to decide whether new action is required, whether the current measures are sufficient or whether more needs to be done", he said.

His statement followed a meeting of health and agriculture officials from the central government and the 16 federal states, hastily convened to discuss the latest British findings.

Asked whether British dairy products were safe for consumption, Mr Borchert said there was no hard evidence of any risk from milk but urged consumers to buy German. "Germany is BSE free."

Last week in its statement the UK ministry said there was no evidence of BSE infectivity being transmitted through milk. It added, however, that the Central Veterinary Laboratory's epidemiology department in Weybridge, Surrey, was "undertaking further detailed studies on this point and that the results of these studies will be available very soon."

Since then the ministry has vehemently denied that any studies on the possible risk from milk are being done. Mr Borchert demanded that the commission and its veterinary and scientific committees address the issue of milk and dairy products and the risk of BSE infection.

He said the beef crisis was being exacerbated by the fact that, despite the world export ban on beef imposed this year, British cattle were still being fed animal meal.



A walker surveys the Lulworth section of the 600 mile South-West Coastal Path, which is to be reopened after closure because of erosion. The routed 600 yard section has been agreed between Dorset county council, Lulworth Estate and the Bishop's Cottage hotel. PHOTOGRAPH DAVID MANGELL

# Minister warns BBC not to cast change in stone

Andrew Culf Media Correspondent

THE BBC was warned yesterday that changes to the World Service should not be "cast in stone" before the Foreign Office had ensured its character and quality had been preserved.

The FO minister Jeremy Hanley said any changes introduced by the BBC before a joint working party with the Foreign Office reported next month could not be regarded as irrevocable.

"If the BBC choose to make management changes or certain appointments in that time scale, then there is the understanding that they could be reversed if the quality and the ethos of the World Service was proved to be at risk," he told Radio 4's 'The World at One'.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, ordered the setting up of the working group last month, after a meeting with Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC's chairman. It will assess the impact of the BBC's plan to merge the service's English language and news programmes with domestic departments.

The BBC has said that work will proceed on the changes, but implementation is not due until next April. It has already appointed senior World Service personnel to oversee the merger of news departments with BBC News, the domestic directorate.

Mr Hanley reiterated the Government's concern over the lack of consultation. "We

felt that the BBC should recognise that nothing should be cast in stone before we had the opportunity to make sure that the quality and special character of the World Service had been protected."

Mr Hanley insisted there should be financial transparency in the World Service's administration because the Government provided £175 million a year to fund it. "We do not want that money to filter through to the mainstream BBC."

But he said suggestions from cabinet sources, reported in yesterday's Guardian, that Mr Rifkind had already decided to tear up director general John Birt's blueprint were "very inaccurate indeed".

Management was an issue for the BBC, but the Foreign Office as paymaster needed to maintain the service's quality. "There has to be the proper priority which serves our audience and not just serves the convenience of the BBC."

# Blood samples 'switched to avoid maintenance payout'

A HOSPITAL orderly and his lover tampered with blood samples so he could avoid paying maintenance for his baby daughter, Maidstone court was told yesterday.

Timothy Anderson, aged 24, had a blood test to determine paternity but then he and his girlfriend, nursing sister Elizabeth Mills, aged 33, sent off for analysis a sample belonging to another man.

The child's mother, Carol Thomas, aged 42, was horrified when the result concluded that Anderson was not the biological father. Certain that he was, she made an official complaint to Medway NHS Trust and the police.

Anderson was arrested and another sample taken. This proved that he was almost 6,000 times more likely to be the child's father than any other man.

Anderson, of Lenham, near Maidstone, Kent, denies committing an act intending to pervert the course of justice between May 1994 and June 1995.

Mills, a mother of three,

who lives with Anderson, has admitted the same charge and will be sentenced at the end of his trial.

The jury heard that Anderson and Mrs Thomas met in January 1993. She already had four children and by March that year she was pregnant.

She reluctantly agreed to an abortion, but changed her mind after having a scan and seeing her unborn child.

The little girl was born in November that year. Mrs Thomas gave up work and began claiming benefit.

The Child Support Agency stepped in and Anderson, who disputed paternity, had to undergo a blood test. At the time he and Mills were working at Medway hospital, Gillingham.

The court heard that Mills arranged for a consultant to witness the taking of the blood. Michael O'Sullivan, prosecuting, said: "Quite simply his sample was switched with that of another person once the doctor had left."

The trial continues.



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So far we can look people in the eyes and say that not one award, not even the grant to the Royal Opera House, has been made at the expense of any other. We have sufficient money. Lord Gowrie











Abdulrahman Mohamed Babu

Free thinking in Zanzibar

ABDULRAHMAN Mohamed Babu, 71, who has died aged 71, was a significant figure in the Pan-African movement of the 1960s, a key player in the run-up to the Zanzibar revolution of January 1964.

which he sought to turn into a party closely allied to the international leftist movements. However, this proved to be a position which could not be sustained against the party's more conservative elements.

cheated by Frank Carlucci, US consul in the island and later President Reagan's Secretary of Defence, was a union between Zanzibar and Tanganyika: to be known as the United Republic of Tanzania (URT).



Beyond Africa... Babu with Malcolm X (left), no cause was ever too helpless to espouse

Appreciation: Mohammed Aided

Lord of chaos and destruction

BY ALL accounts, Mohammed Farah Aided (obituary, August 3) was a master destroyer, a man who would rather demolish what he could not have.

Jean Muir

Rebel without the roles

If you were men, as men you are in show. You would not use a gentle lady so

IN 1935, Jean Muir, who has died aged 85, appeared as an enchanting Helena in Max Reinhardt's A Midsummer Night's Dream

screen, and resisted posing for publicity photographs. "I'm not pretty. I have no sex appeal. I wear clothes like a cornfield scarecrow," she remarked inaccurately.

Muir had arrived in Hollywood after being spotted on Broadway in Saint Witch (1933). She had made her debut playing an ingenue in Ivor Novello's The Truth Game (1930) starring the actor who had played her in the film.



Jean Muir... her career dived after she was "exposed" as a communist sympathiser

way (Pride and Prejudice) and radio. Muir returned to Hollywood for three further films. Her last part was in The Constant Nymph (1943) as Kate Sanger. Joan Fontaine's cello-playing oldest sister, the cello coming in handy for hiding her advanced pregnancy.

In 1960, Muir was offered the role of the lovable mother in the sitcom The Adirich Family, transferred from radio to TV. However, as rehearsals were about to start, her name appeared in the anonymously-published Red Channels newsletter, which "exposed" her as a communist sympathiser.

Letters

Dr Robert Davis writes: James Tye (obituary, July 27) was indeed a skilled publicist and opportunist. However, his approach to safety on the road was by no means as benign as your obituarist suggests.

Birthdays

Chris Bonington, mountaineer, 62; Billy Boston, rugby league player, 62; Steve Cairn, composer, 75; Charles Crichton, film director, 85; Ron Davies, Labour MP, 83; Kenneth Clark, art historian, 87; Norman Graess, impresario, 78; Sir Howard Hodgkin, painter, 64; Sir Freddie Laker, air charter pioneer, 74; James Lees-Milne, architectural historian, 82; Motira Lister, actress, 73; Robert Miltzman, actor, 73; Jack Parnell, drummer, bandleader, 67; Judge Valerie Pearlman, 63; John Reid, jockey, 41; Dr Winifred Watkins, immunological chemist, 72; Barbara Windsor, actress, 59; Charles Wood, playwright, 64.

Death Notices

FAWCETT, Elsie Mabel Fawcett died suddenly in London on August 3rd. Funeral to be announced shortly. GIBSON, John, aged 83 years. Husband of Joan and father of Richard and Tilly. Services and cremation at Macmillan Crematorium on Friday, August 9th, 1996 at 10.30am. Enquiries to Nicole Wason and Buckley, 01753 6270.

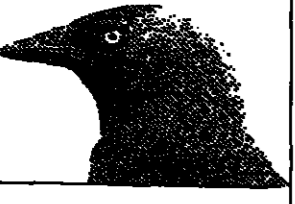
In Memoriam

HUGHES, Margaret, in memory of the late Mrs. Margaret Hughes nee Jones, who died on August 2nd 1996.

Births

BANERJEE, Jacob Alexander David born 4 August 1996 to Mary and Johnny. To place your announcement telephone 0171 73 4667. Fax 0171 73 4123.

Jackdaw



History waves

AS TWO Americans of practically French descent find it easier than a fledgling art form to find its wings, we would like to see the team put this rebuff behind them and get on with something that still reverberates with the glory of French culture without necessarily giving audiences the willies. Here are a couple of ideas we've been throwing about:

are his studies of chicken cholera. In an uplifting chicken swimmers are successfully "vaccinated" against anthrax and rabies to the sound of the 1812 Overture. Four minutes, 20 seconds. 2. "Ester Williams at the Lapin Agile": A celebration of French painting. Liberty leads the team, wearing Phrygian bathing caps and weight belts, while the naked swimmers assemble on the bottom of the pool, where they languidly consume a "Déjeuner sur l'Herbe". Then, shooting to the surface and gasping in tandem, they convey the sensational reception of the Army Show. Three and a half minutes; four to allow the costume change for the optional "explosion in a single factory". 3. "Domestic and Subversion": A post-humanist underwater ballet. Drawing on themes from Michel Foucault, the team symbolises its withdrawal of allegiance from the out-moded socio-historical construct of power and authoritarianism implicit in the state of buoyancy by performing "The Death of Man" in an empty pool. Sixty seconds. 4. "J'Accuse!": The Dreyfus Affair. Finesses the painful opera libretto. In severe terry cloth robes, the team marches on to the diving board in French military style. One by one, they cannonball off, miming the discovery by a French spy in the German Embassy of a secret list of French documents received by Major Max von Schwartzkoppen, military attaché in Paris. Next, suspicion falls on Dreyfus, followed by the acquittal of Esterhazy. Zeitgeist acting for the president of the Republic, Dreyfus's trip to Devil's Island, and the eventual unification and bringing to power of France's political left wing. In the shallow end, Dreyfus is incarcerated and given the gold medal of the Legion of Honor. Just under four minutes. Olympic notes on how to cause bigger ripples in the New York Review. Judith Sanders

Fat moves

FAT Manifesto: Practice saying the word fat until it feels the same as short, tall, thin, young, or old. Chat with your

fat. Give it pet names. Doodle fat on your notepad during meetings: fat, fat, fat, fat, fat. Use it with your parents, with your partner. Let friends in on your secret. Say, "By the way, I'm fat." Not too plump, not bloated. FAT! Combine the word fat with other words in new and unusual ways: beautifully fat, fat and fabulous, fat pride. Use fat in a sentence: "You're looking good, are you getting fat?" "I met a handsome, fat man the other day." "Gee, I wish I could be fat like her." Try out these radical phrases on people you meet and watch their stunned reactions. Boat the bikini bulge blues at www.fatso.com/man's.html. Thanks to David Goldshty.

Hearty lines

"She seemed to have been born with those Attractions, which seat a Sovereign in the face of most beautiful persons; yet was her mind endued with more excellent charms, than the Attractions of her Face: Modest and Mild Disposition, Courteous of Carriage, and of such Affairs

Department, as might entitle her to the name of Queen of Hearts, before she was designed for Queen over any subjects." Proof that Princess Di has only been following ancient tradition. Extract from Lady Jane Grey, from Clement Clarke, Memorials of Worthy Persons. The Third Decad, 1662. Thanks to Helen Vincent.

Hot sock

MY WIFE gave me a pair of red ski socks in the 1993-94 Whitehead Race, and whenever I wore them, even if we were behind in the fleet, suddenly we would be back in the front again. Sometimes we were quite a long way behind the fleet, maybe between Uruguay and Freemantle, and the crew would shout "Come on, you've got to put your socks on!" "No, no, We'll wait until it really matters." "I would say. Then I would put them on and the next day, maybe in a flat calm, we would have a breeze that no one else had."

COUNTRY LIFE



red socks, there were horses with red socks on, dogs and little old ladies in wheelchairs. When the curtain went up on the cast of 42nd Street, there were all these red socks dangling on stage. Then there was the prime minister and the elephant in the zoo... the place went crazy. People still wear them on the lipsels, and someone's applied to the Guinness Book of Records to claim they have made the biggest red sock ever."

Morehair

"IT'S A spoof" many will cry when they read Knitting with Dog Hair. It can't be taken straight. But why not? The definitive guide to a new and ecologically friendly hobby, it is published by a respectable firm (Guthrie & Co. £5.95). Step-by-step instructions take you all the way from collecting the dog or cat hairs to wearing the jerseys, caps, mittens, socks, scarves

Emily Sheffield



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
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# Finance Guardian

HSBC stuns the markets with the highest six-monthly figures in the history of corporate Britain

## Midland hits record profit

**Patrick Donovan**  
**City Editor**

HSBC, the global financial outfit whose activities range from the Midland Bank to the James Capel stockbroker firm, yesterday entered the record books as it unveiled the highest six-monthly profit figures in the history of corporate Britain.

Unusually for a major FTSE company unveiling scheduled profits, shares rocketed on the profit announcement, closing 48p to 1164p. Shares were also boosted by a 62 per cent increase in the dividend to 15p — the first step in rebalancing how the interim and final payments are made. Leading research houses were upgrading profit expectations for the full year by around 10 per cent to nearly 24.6 billion.

Analysts were taken by surprise at the unexpected growth in HSBC's large Hong Kong based operations which have seen sharp growth in bank transactions and improved margins despite the uncertainties created by next year's takeover of the colony by mainland China.

The HongKongBank Group, which includes a near-62 per cent stake in Hang Seng Bank, enjoyed a 7 per cent growth in loans and advances. Lending to large business projects, particularly in real estate and construction, were up by nearly 25 per cent. Overall profits from Hong Kong activities increased by a quarter to 2218 million over the half year period.

Its core Midland Bank operations increased 35 per cent to 2439 million with particularly strong growth from First Direct. Nearly 90,000 customers have joined the telephone banking service over the past six months, largely prosperous account holders disaffected with other banks.

Although First Direct accounts for just 1.2 per cent of the entire market, the business now accounts for 5 per cent of lucrative ABCI customers. Underlining the growing trend for upmarket customers to shop around for better deals, First Direct has been ensuring high quality customers by rejecting four out of ten applications. HSBC declined to detail First Direct's performance.

### Notebook

## Warning: cherry pickers keep out



Edited by Mark Milner

As privatisations go, it is hardly likely to be the most contentious. The Treasury, through merchant bankers M Rothschild, is seeking expressions of interest from financial institutions in buying parts of the £1.1 billion Housing Corporation loan book. Nonetheless, the issue is worth close inspection. In such a market, the loans, which date back to the seventies and eighties, were made to Housing Associations to top up direct grants funding subsidised housing for rent. In recent years, housing associations have been forced by government policy to raise the loan element of financing from the private sector, although the Housing Corporation has continued providing Housing Association Grants — albeit at a reduced level.

Given that the housing associations have been able to attract some £9 billion of private finance, it could be argued that the case for private rather than public provision of the associations' finance loan element is no more than a logical extension of what has already happened on the ground.

That is not the only issue, however. Some of the offers are extremely attractive, with fixed rates of up to 15 per cent. Even the average rate is 11.3 per cent. Housing associations have the right to redeem the loans on their own properties, but for many the rates on offer are prohibitive. Premiums of up to 30 per cent of par value are not unknown, keeping many out of the market.

If outside financial institutions are to be allowed in, it must be on equal terms. Private buyers must not "cherry pick" the portfolio, and certainly not on better terms than the associations would be allowed to buy out loans on their own properties. Ministers will no doubt argue that they will not proceed with the sale unless they are convinced they are getting the best deal. Critics are likely to see the sale as being Treasury driven. Perhaps the government could diffuse such criticism by promising that the proceeds of any sale will be applied to the provision of social housing. But don't hold your breath.

### Vox pop victory

MERGER and demerger are fashions not only in commercial life but in the public sector, as well as the debate ebbs and flows between those who wanted "focused", single-purpose agencies and those who believed in the virtues of "int-

### Ken's semaphore

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, likes to polish his image as a man whose first priority is a steady economy, not the political fortunes of his party. He is also careful not to place too much weight on one set of economic figures. Yesterday, however, there were three new temptations which could tip the balance in favour of lower interest rates in the November Budget.

## Paying Names appeal to judge

PAULINE SPRINGETT

DISGRUNTLED investors in Names at Lloyd's of London yesterday succeeded in initiating a legal challenge to the market's £2.2 billion rescue package.

The 3,000-strong Paying Names Action Group was given permission by High Court judge Mr Justice Turner to go ahead with a judicial review of the Lloyd's rescue plan. The hearing is due to start next week.

John Abramson, of solicitors Warner Cranston, acting for the group, said a victory for the rebel Names could force Lloyd's to reconsider its package.

**TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS**

Australia 1,537	France 7.47	Italy 2,294	Singapore 2,137
Austria 1,511	Germany 2,205	Malta 0.535	South Africa 8.73
Belgium 45.26	Greece 355.75	Netherlands 2,475	Spain 187.75
Canada 2,072	Hong Kong 11.85	New Zealand 2.20	Sweden 10.03
Cyprus 0.865	India 54.67	Norway 9.56	Switzerland 1,775
Denmark 8.565	Ireland 0.932	Portugal 226.25	Turkey 123,000
Finland 8.5	Israel 4.85	Saudi Arabia 6.75	USA 1.51

Supplied by Hellweg Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli Shekel).

## Newsquest pips Irish to buy Pearson papers

Lisa Buckingham

PEARSON, the company whose leisure empire ranges from the Financial Times to Alton Towers, yesterday sold its regional newspaper business, Westminster Press, for £235 million.

The deal, which includes titles such as the Northern Echo, Oxford Mail and the Brighton Evening Argus, will make its buyer Newsquest — the management team which recently paid a similar sum for Reed International's local newspaper business — one of the two largest regional newspaper owners in Britain.

### Shares deal boosts O'Reilly's pay to £41m

Mark Tran in New York and Lisa Buckingham

TONY O'Reilly, chairman of HJ Heinz, saw his total pay rise to \$64.1 million (£41.3 million) last year from \$23 million in 1994, thanks to a \$61.5 million gain on the exercise of stock options.

One of the most highly paid executives in America, Mr O'Reilly used about half of his total package to finance a complicated transaction which increased his stake in the food group by nearly 1.1 million shares, giving him about 1.8 per cent of the company's shares.

Mr O'Reilly, a former Ireland rugby international, saw his basic salary rise by 15 per cent to \$7.1 million. But his bonus jumped to \$1.8 million from \$1 million.

Mr O'Reilly, who also chairs the Irish Independent group of newspapers and in Britain controls the independent and independent on Sunday in partnership with Mirror Group Newspapers, was

### Six-figure bonuses for Rothschild directors in £18m payout for staff

MERCHANT bank N M Rothschild plans to share an £18 million bonus between its staff because of a sharp growth in profits, says Patrick Donovan.

The payout, which will be worth six-figure sums for the highest paid directors, followed an increase in pre-tax profits from £26.9 mil-

lion to £35 million for the year to March 31.

But although there has been much speculation about the future of the bank following the death of her apparent Amosel Rothschild, chairman Sir Evelyn insisted that the 186-year-old institution would remain independent.



Points but no pints... Wesley meets pub pals in the Wacky Warehouse

## Allied pubs serve a new sort of tot

Dan Atkinson

ONCE they skulked in the back seat of the car, scoffing crisps and warm Coca-Cola while their parents guzzled Taverne Keg and played bar billiards.

Then came pub gardens, followed by "children's rooms" and, eventually, "family pubs", complete with play areas and bouncy castles.

Now the kid-in-the-pub has taken his/her place at the bar, as a valued customer deserving his/her own supermarket-style loyalty card.

Allied Domecq has leaptfrogged other brewers with their weedy "18-24 pubs" and gone straight to the heart of the real youth market: children aged three to nine.

## SFA chief expects sole watchdog

Dan Atkinson

AN ALL-POWERFUL regulator for the banking and securities industry, absorbing the current role of the Bank of England, is likely to be established whatever the result of the general election, the stock-market supervisor the Securities and Futures Authority said yesterday.

Chairman Nicholas Durlacher suggested that the City's chief "referee", the Securities and Investments Board, would probably be merged with its subsidiaries, including the SFA.

In order to achieve "meaningful economies of scale", he said, banking supervision would be detached from the Bank of England and effectively married to the SFA.

Whoever wins the election, he said, was unlikely to leave the 10-year-old regulatory system as it was.

Despite the disappearance of some of the original supervisors — including the brokers' regulator Fimbra — Mr Durlacher said one more shake-up was due. He was speaking on the publication of the SFA's annual report for 1995-96, a year that has included the backwash from the collapse of Barings and the scandal surrounding Sumitomo's rogue copper trader, Yasuo Hamanaka, currently subject of an SFA inquiry.

Away from the headlines, the agency has quietly processed 42 disciplinary cases against individual members during the year, and against 11 member-firms.

This is a sharp increase on the 26 people and eight firms disciplined in 1994-95, but little changed on the 1993-94 totals of 43 people and six firms.

Nineteen individual members have been expelled from the SFA for various offences during the year, against 15 last year.

Spending shot up from £17.5 million last year before the SIB levy to £22.5 million, a rise accounted for partly by the additional £3 million spent on the new computer system installed for tracking trading activities of members.

# 'Industrial stagnation' cues rate cut

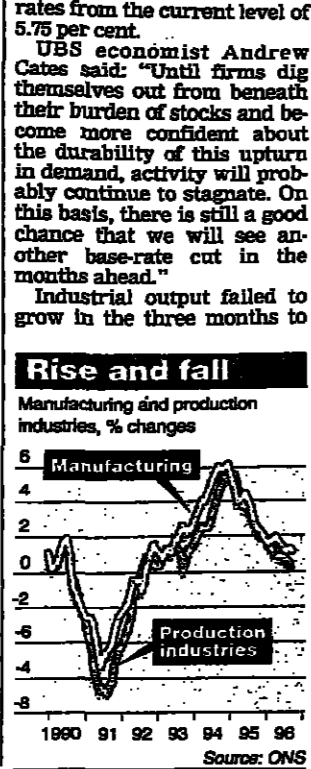
Sarah Fyfe

**H**OPES that the manufacturing sector was on the road to recovery were shattered yesterday when official figures showed a surprise fall in factory output.

Recent surveys of executives had suggested the manufacturing sector could be on course for a speedy revival. But the Office for National Statistics yesterday disclosed that industrial output fell 1.1 per cent in June, with manufacturing output down 0.3 per cent.

Factory output has failed to grow for three successive quarters. This was seized upon by analysts who have been predicting that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, will make another cut in interest rates before the Budget.

They said evidence of persistent sluggishness in the industrial sector would strengthen Mr Clarke's hand in the anticipated tussle with the Bank of England over any further reduction in base



## Sharp rise in BA profits fails to excite City

OUTLOOK/ Doubts over American deal hit carrier, writes Chris Barrie

**T**HE prospect of an alliance between British Airways and American Airlines continued to dominate investor perception when a sharp rise in first-quarter profits failed to excite the City.

In normal circumstances investors could be expected to respond favourably to an 11.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits which, in BA's case, took the surplus to \$135 million on turnover of \$2.5 billion up from \$120 million on \$2.2 billion. But BA's share price ended 6.5p down at \$39. The rise in profits was offset by the world's flag-carriers, agreements between dip-

lomats count as much as productivity per employee.

And in BA's case, facing litigation from its own partner, USAir, over its proposal to form an even closer alliance with US rival American, the prospects are as difficult to forecast as the outcome of any case in the US courts.

Analysts were stressing yesterday that BA's long-term future depended on the alliance with American. Without it, the group would struggle to develop as a global carrier.

Although the deal would enhance profits by allowing the two to pool their purchasing, cut costs and increase passenger revenue, the alliance is

also a defence against similar moves by United Airlines with Germany's Lufthansa.

Chris Avery, an analyst with Banque Paribas, said the only issue now was the identity of BA's US partner, USAir or American. And given USAir's litigation against BA, the indications were that BA's first suitor was looking to unravel its transatlantic link.

There was also speculation that USAir was putting down a marker for the talks on an "open skies" agreement, which could see US carriers being given greater access to Heathrow. London is host to the next round of talks in September.

BA is playing down the rift. Holder of a 24.6 per cent stake in USAir, the company said it was possible for lawyers to ar-

## Taxmen rely on £60m PFI plan

Martyn Ralsall

**T**HE Government's beleaguered private finance initiative (PFI) received a much needed boost yesterday when the Inland Revenue unveiled a £60 million office development scheme.

The Treasury minister Michael Jack, pictured above, announced that the taxman's first PFI venture will be built in Salford, Greater Manchester. The futuristic development, due to open in March 1998, will bring together 11 existing offices and 2,200 staff in one of the Inland Revenue's largest office reorganisations.

The project will also include the redevelopment of a former hospital in Stockport where new offices will be developed behind a listed early Victorian facade, drawing together about 350 staff from three offices. Some 180 jobs will be lost by "natural wastage" in the reorganisation.

The new Salford offices, which will handle the tax affairs of 2 million PAYE taxpayers in London and the South-east, will mark "a pioneering use of private finance," Mr Jack said.

He said that the introduction of PFI marked an end to the days of "build and disappear" by private builders in public sector office development. He said: "Now all the risks are the responsibility of the developer and that's putting the risk where it can be handled best, in the private sector."

The Manchester area project is part of a 10-year programme of restructuring tax offices, which will reduce the numbers overall from about 300 to 186. Around 70 office schemes have been completed.

Target date for reorganising half the network is April 1998. The reorganisation coincides with the introduction in 1997/7 of self assessment for 9 million tax-payers.

## US airlines compete to see how far they can bring down fares

Mark Tran in New York

**F**ARE-cutting in the US airline industry reached new levels yesterday as American Airlines and United Airlines announced steep price reductions to match those of America West Airlines.

American made its move in response to America West's offer of single tickets on long-haul flights to as little as \$50. The latest discounts follow a round of fare-cutting as airlines seek to encourage late summer and autumn travel.

Airlines say bookings have not dropped as a result of the ValueJet and TWA disasters. But they have an incentive to sell as many tickets as possible now.

Legislation reinstating a 10 per cent federal excise tax on airline tickets in November is thought to be another reason for the price cuts.

Southwest Airlines sparked a ticket-buying frenzy last month by offering single fares of \$25. The airline sold more than 4.5 million seats and travellers jammed its phone lines, hitting July sales because regular customers could not get through.

## Tunnel claims best month yet

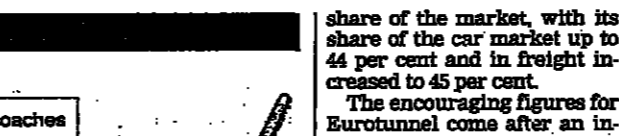
Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

**T**HE Channel tunnel recorded its best month yet in July, with more than 340,000 cars and some 54,000 trucks being transported under the English Channel, according to new figures.

The number of cars, motor cycles, caravans and coaches using the tunnel in July was more than double the same month last year and 31 per cent up on this June, in what the operator, Eurotunnel, described as a successful start to the summer.

Its figures show the tunnel increasingly winning support and custom after suffering huge teething troubles at the beginning of operations in December 1994.

Last weekend alone saw 31,000 cars and coaches ping-ponging through the tunnel — more than a fifth of the traffic through the tunnel in the whole of last August.



share of the market, with its share of the car market up to 44 per cent and in freight increased to 45 per cent.

The encouraging figures for Eurotunnel came after an increasingly intense commercial battle with the ferry operators and the short-haul airlines. In May, the group announced it was halving its main return fare to £129.

Ferry operators immediately hit back, promising to match any deal offered by Eurotunnel and have since received government clearance to pool resources on cross-Channel routes.

Airlines have seen their traffic hit by the Eurostar service, with the Paris route now severely hit. A spokeswoman for Eurotunnel said that the service had grown in popularity with the introduction of a more frequent and reliable service.

The introduction of special offers — including deals on duty-free goods for travellers using Shuttle services — had helped boost trade.

## Salvesen ponders fresh Hays bid as family splits

**P**RESSURE builds on directors to accept deal for power group, reports Ian King

**D**IRECTORS of Christian Salvesen, the logistics and power hire group, will meet today to consider a raised offer from business group Hays.

Hays, which had an offer rejected last week valuing Salvesen shares at 370p, is understood to have raised its cash-and-shares offer to around 380p at the weekend — valuing Salvesen at £1.4 billion.

Rumours that Hays's chairman, Ron Frost, had been invited to pay more than 400p a share, which would secure a knockout bid, but which would dilute earnings for Hays. He is still known to prefer a recommendation for any offer from Salvesen's directors, who have been holding out for a deal in the region of

400p, and who last week, in an unusual move, told him they would consider a higher offer.

He has also held lengthy talks with Hays's institutional shareholders — including Mercury Asset Management, Gartmore and Standard Life — on the price they would back.

But Mr Frost has also made clear that he is prepared to walk away from a deal if the price is not right — a move which would prompt a collapse in the Salvesen share price. City analysts expect that in such a situation, Salvesen would be forced into remedial action to satisfy its shareholders, perhaps involving a share buy-back or even a full demerger of the company.

Last week Salvesen shares closed down 8p at 351p, while Hays shares climbed 5p to 432p.

Neither side would last night confirm or deny that Hays had raised its offer. Salvesen was meeting to consider the proposals. There was no comment on sugges-

## A Pocket-size problem for Bluebird Toys

**I**NTENSE competition and too many Polly Pockets held in shops have left half-time pre-tax profits of Bluebird Toys down 59 per cent at £2.1 million, writes Pauline Springett.

"The harsh world market conditions are having an adverse effect on the current year's performance," said chairman Martin Bunting. He warned that turnover would be slightly lower in the second half of the year.

But the company, which was last year the subject of takeover speculation, said it was already hitting back at its competitors, with its recently launched Disney and Batman miniature toys selling well. These will be joined later this year by Spider Man and Space Monkey toys.

Analysts have predicted an eventual tussle between the US toy groups Hasbro and Mattel for Bluebird, although the takeover speculation has recently become more muted.

Picture: Batman meets The Joker on screen.



Britair

Nash House comeback

Swiss Bank

0930 1684

BRIGHTON CENTRE

OLYMPIC GAMES

Britain and the fading gold standard

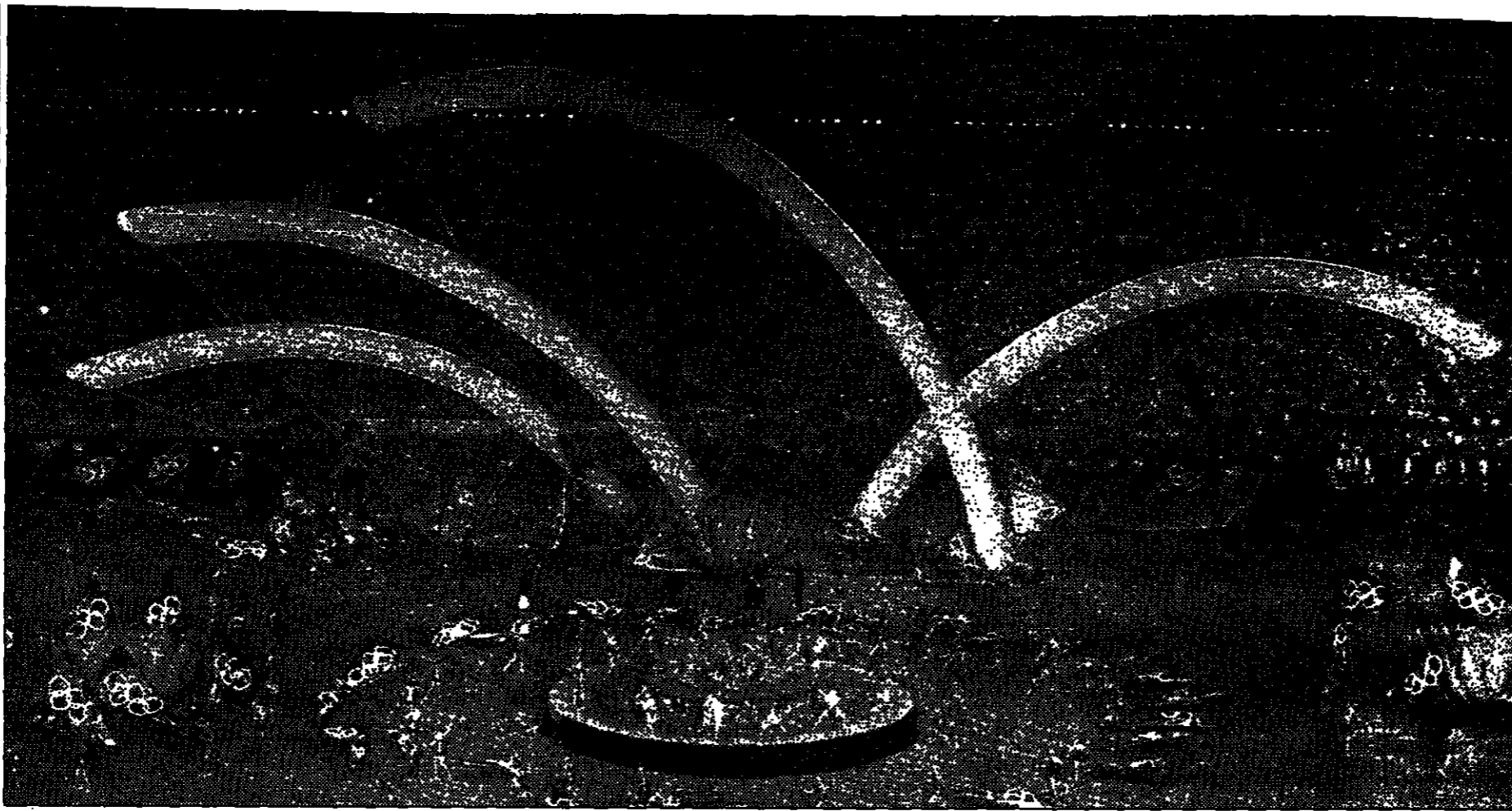
Nick Mason

FOR Great Britain the final medals table represents a decline of self-flagellating proportions...

For the Russians and the Germans the medal totals have been reduced to relatively modest proportions...

But it is said that matters, and British teams have had to settle for the single solitary 'big yellow one' only twice before in the modern Games' 100-year history...

Otherwise the table proves the widening of sporting excellence throughout the world: 79 of the competing nations took home at least one medal...



Song cycle... a representation of Sydney Opera House dominates the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games and whets the appetite for Australia in 2000

Final Medals Table

Table with 3 columns: Rank, Country, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Total. Lists countries from United States to Uganda with their respective medal counts.

Dixie darlings and southern discomfort: Guardian writers on Atlanta's highs and lows

The Star Steven Radgraves, collapsing on his ears. 'After 16 years I just didn't give a toss any more.'

The Star The spectators, unashamedly pro-American but always profitable, they gave the Games their sense of occasion.

The Star Roger Black — an outstanding 400m in the circumstances. Overshadowed by Johnson but memorable none the less.

The Star Muhammad Ali: forever The Greatest. The security guard Richard Jewell, according to a lynch-mob American media which had no conception of innocent until proven guilty.

The Star Donovan Bailey for the electrifying sprint that assuaged Canada post-Ben Johnson.

The Star Michael Johnson for taking gold to obscure Roger Black's finest hour.

Racing

Nash House on comeback trail

NASH HOUSE, one of the season's biggest talking horses and an 8-1 chance for the Derby before flopping in the Dante Stakes...

Hamingtons Handicap over seven furlongs. He has not won beyond six but this is a very easy track.

Catterick card with guide to the form

Racing card for Catterick with various race listings, horse names, jockeys, and odds. Includes sections for 2.15, 2.45, 3.15, 4.15, 4.45, 5.15, 5.45, 6.15, 6.45, 7.15, 7.45, 8.15, 8.45, 9.15, 9.45, 10.15, 10.45, 11.15, 11.45, 12.15, 12.45.

Brighton

Racing card for Brighton with various race listings, horse names, jockeys, and odds. Includes sections for 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30, 4.00, 4.30, 5.00, 5.30, 6.00, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30, 9.00, 9.30, 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30, 12.00, 12.30.

0930 1684 RACELINE COMMENTARY BRIGHTON 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

Blinkered for the first time — BRIGHTON: 2.30 Followthe Ailsdars, 3.00 Moving Up, 4.30 Creeping CATTYRICK: 2.15 Clover Girl, 2.45 Desert Storm, 3.15 Mill House Boy, 4.45 China Hand, Never Say So.



Golf

David Davies, in Louisville for this week's US PGA Championship, on the designer's dismay over the forbidden island fairway

Arrow through Nicklaus' heart



Nicklaus... 'flabbergasted'

JACK NICKLAUS is, for once, flabbergasted. The man who has seen and experienced almost all of what golf has to offer cannot believe what the officials in charge of this week's US PGA Championship have done to the course at the Valhalla club here in Kentucky.

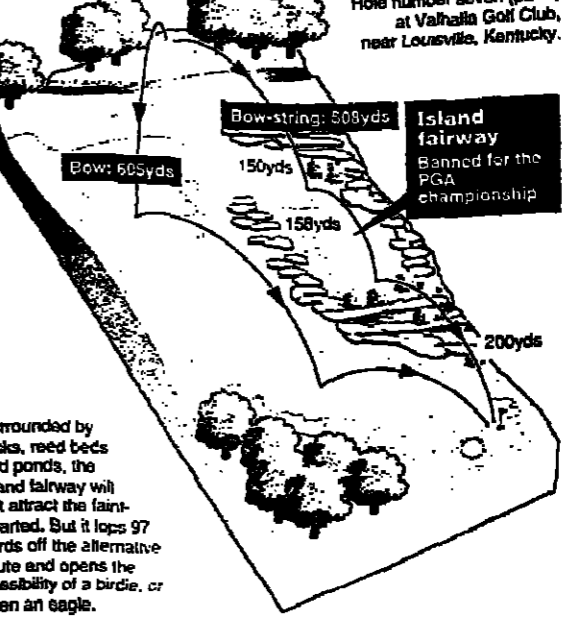
Valhalla is a Nicklaus design. When he was called in to create it the owner Dwight Gahan (pronounced "game") specified that it should be more than just a members' course, for he had in mind attracting a championship to the area.

It is, in a sense, two holes. One measures a bow-shaped 605 yards; the other is the bow-string and cuts straight between the two ends, measuring only 336 yards. The bow hole is a three-shotter in anyone's terms. The bow-string hole can, with length and accuracy — and bravery — be covered comfortably enough in two shots, setting up a possible eagle or an almost certain birdie.

But the PGA has provided a mass of reasons for eliminating the shorter hole, neither of which makes complete sense. It has, it says, three other reachable par-fives and needed at least one three-shot

ter; and there is the fact that the island fairway would be a long way from the spectators and viewing would be difficult. But a third reason, suggested by the golf architect Ron Whitten in America's Golf Digest, seems more likely. Standing on the 7th tee, the best players would see a relatively reachable target area, 158 yards deep and 65 yards wide, with a carry of only 150 yards.

The long gamble



Surrounded by rocks, trees and ponds, the island fairway will not attract the faint-hearted. But it tops 97 yards off the alternate route and opens the possibility of a birdie, or even an eagle.

But just because the speed of the convoy is that of the slowest ship, that hardly means that championships should be run for the benefit of the less skilled players competing in it. The US PGA Championship, which starts here on Thursday, will be a less exciting event because of this decision and it will be interesting if and when the Ryder Cup is played at Valhalla, whether the same safety-first and specious arguments apply.

Cricket

County Championship: Kent v Worcestershire

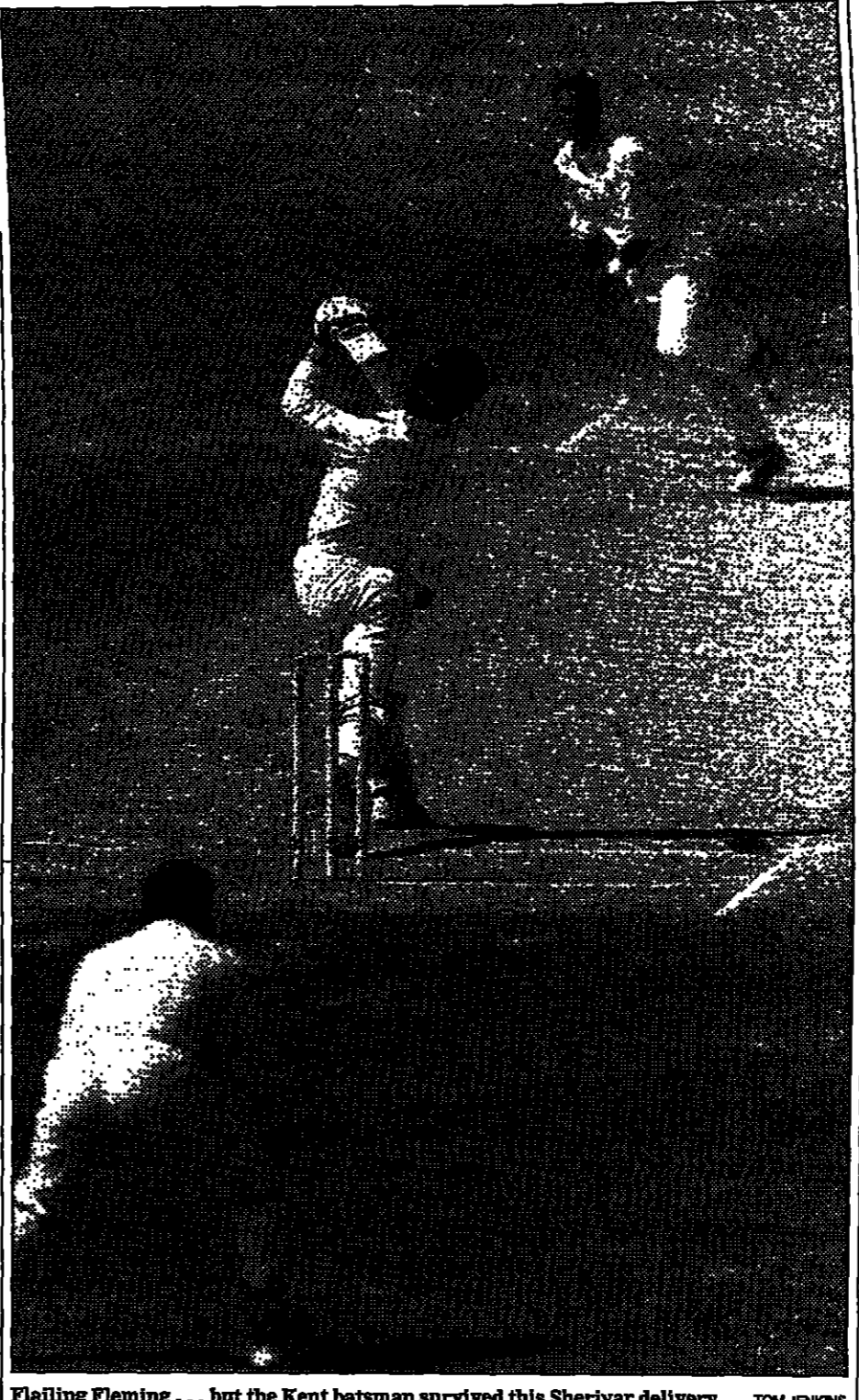
Kent caught out

Paul Weaver at Canterbury

A RATHER ordinary county championship is beginning to resemble a slow bicycle race. Yorkshire have lost two on the trot, Leicestershire have come to a sudden stop and Kent appear to be going backwards. Yesterday they caught the sticky end of a results pitch at the Canterbury Festival and Worcestershire bowled them out for 106 to win by 192 runs.

Lampitt, who finished the match with two wickets in two balls. Afterwards Daryl Foster, the Kent coach, did his vain best to sound cheery. "We had the worst of the pitch but we are playing at home so we can't complain. We didn't play particularly well but this is our first championship defeat. It's a blip but it's by no means terminal. The team who won the toss here was going to win the game. Now we will have to regroup."

and Lampitt took them to 207 in 40 minutes before the declaration. After a miserable response started with a run-out, David Fulton played the ball to Tim Curtis at extra-cover and set off for the single, only to be sent back back by Matthew Walker. He failed to make it. Two balls later Rhodes dived in front of first slip to catch Walker of Tom Moody.



Flailing Fleming... but the Kent batsman survived this Sheryar delivery TOM JENKINS

Caddick keeps a straight face

David Foot on the taciturn bowler who has gained a Test recall for his pains

ANDREW CADDICK, restored to the England Test team this week, is someone who by nature masks his emotions. The defensive eyes tell little; his responses are inclined to be laconic. But that flicker of a smile at the pleasure of his recall conveys a volume of personal resolve.

Championship matches in 1994 and played only six last summer. There was a growing belief that the New Zealand-born player's career might be over. The medicals pondered how best to give him renewed hope and the surgical processes were documented with Lancet-like zeal.

Leicestershire v Northamptonshire

Maddy holds up for first century

David Foot at Grace Road

A MAIDEN championship hundred has to be a matter for celebration. Darren Maddy, a conscientious if novice opener for Leicestershire this season, lifted his bat high, pulled off his helmet and beamed. This would be something to tell his grandchildren.

clearly in no mood to take risks. Home draws — any draws — are no longer the valued prerogative of the football pools punters. The declaration came at 298 for seven, leaving the visitors a target of 298 off at least 69 overs. They finished on 212 for five.

Mujtaba delays tourists as he plays for place

Tom Woolcock at Chester-le-Street

WHILE most of the Pakistanis were in a hurry to head south for Leeds, Asif Mujtaba yesterday took the slow lane towards a possible berth in their side for the second Test.

Scoreboard

Table with columns for teams, batsmen, bowlers, and scores. Includes sections for British Assurance County Championship, Leicestershire v Northamptonshire, and Glamorgan v Glamorgan.

County table

Table showing county rankings and statistics for various teams like Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Kent.

Leading batting averages

Table listing leading batsmen and their averages across different counties.

Leicestershire v Northamptonshire

Gibson propels Notts to defeat

Ottis Gibson and Neil Kendrick bowled Glamorgan towards an eight-wicket victory over Nottinghamshire at Workop, instigating a collapse in which the home side lost five wickets for nine runs

After Chris Cairns had hit a blistering 70. Nottinghamshire were eventually dismissed for 241, leaving Glamorgan to score 124 to win. Hugh Morris (71) was dismissed with his side needing two.

Rugby League

Hull looking for a lift into Super League

Paul Fitzpatrick

HULL, one of the most successful and best supported clubs of the late Seventies and early Eighties, are hoping to be "fast-tracked" into Super League next season.

is where they lie now — their application will carry many persuasive arguments. Their Boulevard stadium has been used for international games and meets the standards laid down in the "Framing the Future" policy document; and their geographical position, 80 miles from the nearest Super League club and in a big and passionate rugby league city, could be a vote winner.

Allan Mason, Hull's chairman, said: "With the increasing desire to play more competitive matches in the Super League, Hull FC wish to make their bid based on merit."

Team talk

Table with columns for team, transfer news, and call number 0891 33 77+.

Sport logo and Guardian branding information.

The last words from Atlanta, page 13  
Wednesday lose Lombardo, page 14

How the USPGA emasculated Valhalla, page 15  
Leicestershire creep to the top, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## Twickenham move to save Five Nations

David Plummer reports on a last-minute compromise by England that could satisfy the other home unions and France

**A** COMPROMISE by England last night appeared to have saved them from being thrown out of rugby's Five Nations Championship. France, Wales, Ireland and Scotland were meeting at a secret London address to consider Twickenham's latest offer and will give England their verdict today but the signs were that the long-standing tournament would not be coming to an end.

Ever since the Rugby Football Union last April announced its intention to seek its own television deal for the championship, leaks have abounded from the four home unions but everyone was remaining tight-lipped in advance of last night's meeting, which was called following the six-hour gathering of the RFU's executive committee last Wednesday.

England are believed to have made concessions on the two major sticking points: the division of television money and the broadcasting of the tournament on terrestrial television.

When Twickenham's representatives met the other unions last month in Cardiff and London the meetings broke up in acrimony because the English believed the others would be appeased by a more equal share-out of the \$184 million Sky had offered the four unions: England had agreed a deal worth \$97.5 million.

The other three unions (Wales were offered £40.5 mil-

lion, Ireland and Scotland £28 million each) made it clear they were not prepared to entertain an exclusive Sky deal. It is understood Twickenham's compromise formula allows a terrestrial station 50-60 access, which would probably mean Sky showing one match on a championship weekend live and BBC or ITV screening the other.

England, who were surprised at both the uncompromising stand taken by their three partners and their solidarity in the face of financial inducements, have also backed down on the division of the television cash but they will still get more than the others because they are free to sell their club fixtures and other internationals at Twickenham to the highest bidder, Sky.

England are looking to play South Africa, Australia and New Zealand but South Africa yesterday ridiculed suggestions of a three-nation tournament between them, England and France.

Sky's original offer was for five years, though Ireland, Scotland and Wales regarded that as too long with the cable revolution and digital television imminent. They were looking for a three-year agreement, four at the most.

The four unions stand to make around \$2 million a year each from the new contract compared to the current \$2.25 million, with England set to make another 60 per cent on top and Wales around 40 per cent.

"England have come a long

way from their original position and for the first time in this dispute there is something concrete to talk about," said one Five Nations source.

"The goal-posts have moved to such an extent that all four countries stand to make a lot of money from the new deal. England now seem to accept that, while they have been the undisputed European champions this decade, they are not bigger than the tournament."

France were involved in last night's meeting even though they have a television contract of their own. That ends in three years, from when the French have pledged to throw their cash into the kitty for the total pot to be split equally five ways.

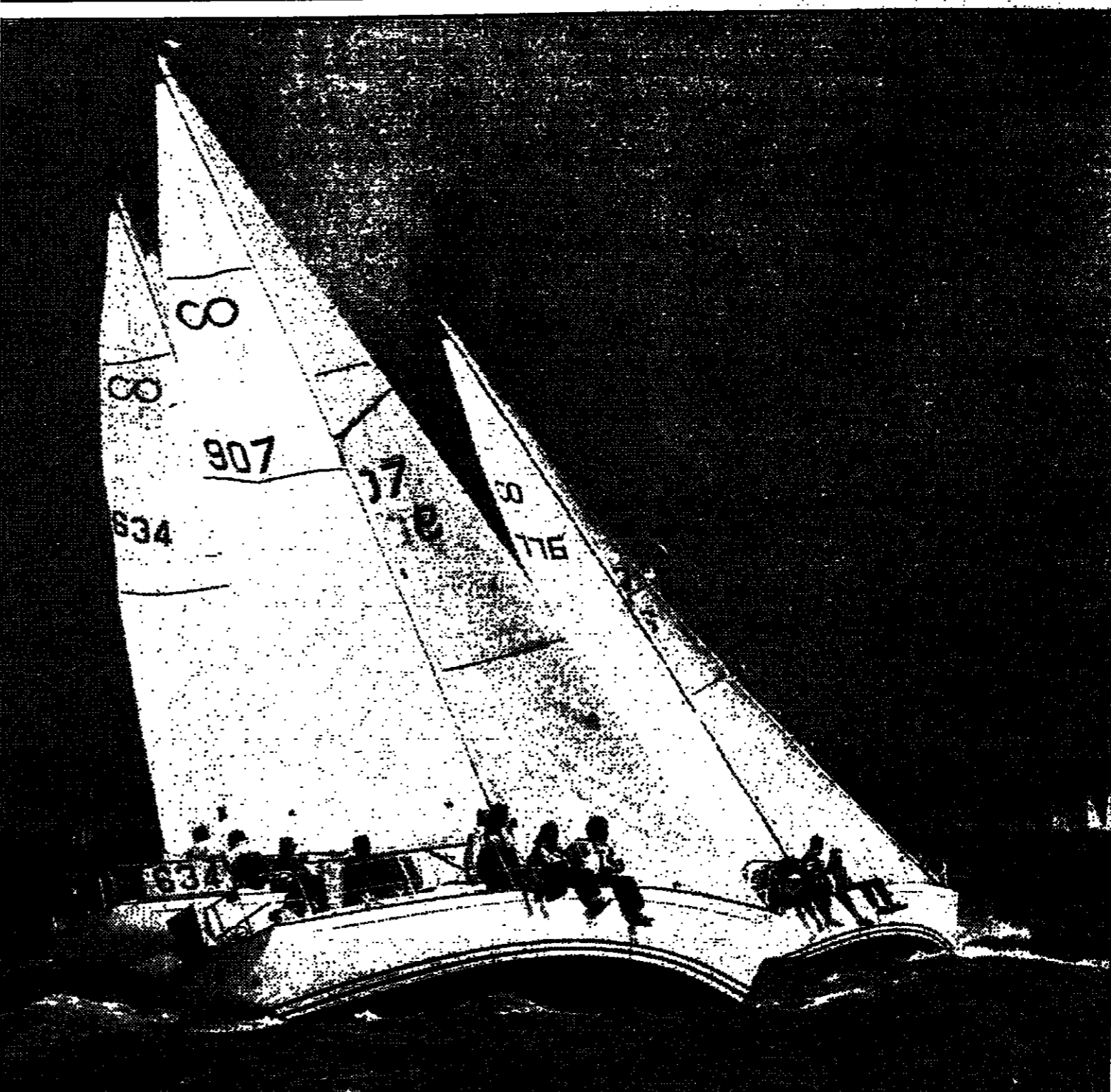
With sponsors also being sought for the tournament, it is likely that in the seasons to come there will be an element of merit money, with the champions getting the most and the wooden-spoon holders the least.

The row has highlighted the split not only among the four home unions but within Twickenham itself. Their delegates at last month's meetings in Cardiff and London fell out among themselves but it appears that the doves who opposed the Sky deal have triumphed over the hawks who negotiated it.

The RFU will be told of the meeting's outcome today though any deal would have to be ratified by the general committees of the unions concerned.

© Martin Offiah relaunched his rugby union career after nine years when he joined Bedford on a four-year contract hours after making his debut with rugby league's London Broncos. Jeff Probyn and Mike Rayer have also joined the League Two club.

### COWES WEEK SET FAIR WITH WIND IN ITS SAILS



Silent running on the right tack... with a strong breeze to put power in their sails, competitors in the Contessa 32 class make brisk progress off the Isle of Wight yesterday in a closely contested race at the annual yachting jamboree  
PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN MUNDAY

## Newcastle gripped by Shearer frenzy

**Michael Walker**

**A**LAN SHEARER will bring Newcastle to a standstill when he makes his first appearance at St James' Park today.

Up to 20,000 supporters are likely to clog the city centre in the hope of getting a glimpse of the world's most expensive footballer. However, they will not be allowed inside

the ground. Instead the club has fixed up a huge Tannoy system to relay Shearer's press conference interview to the thousands waiting outside. "With the factory holiday it's going to be frenzied but we are making plans with police to keep things moving," said a club spokesman.

"We are providing entertainment to keep fans amused and Shearer will come out to greet them

after his media interviews. It's a huge operation because there hasn't been a signing like this in the club's history."

Shearer's arrival will be beamed across the world and Northumbria Police have made special provision to deal with the unprecedented public interest. Shearer-frenzy caused fans to queue around the ground for additional tickets for Sunday's Charity

Shield game with Manchester United - scheduled to be the striker's first appearance in a black and white No. 9 shirt.

Meanwhile hundreds of supporters were at Newcastle airport yesterday to welcome Keegan's squad home from the club's pre-season Far East tour. Shearer had flown in 24 hours earlier to prepare for his big day.

Sketch, page 2

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**Guardian Crossword No 20,724**  
Set by Fawley

**Across**

- 1,5 A hashy authority for regular training? (6,6)
- 8 Dismissal objection, showing old-fashioned brass? (7)
- 9 European's caught by small deception? (7)
- 11 Local branch hostile about new, detailed references? (7,3,5)
- 12 Cause a shock, turning crazy? (4)
- 13 Express needs someone to supply information for growth? (5,5)
- 17 Suffering after long ride, goes off, angry about it (6-4)
- 18 Opportunity to back Othello, perhaps? (4)
- 20 Valuable support offered at end of appointment (5,3)
- 23 Soldier in line about to make a mistake? (7)

**Down**

- 2 Held by a marvellous spell - (5)
- 3 - but duck is broken suddenly, when scoring (6)
- 4 No rise? Debts to be paid? It's familiar, unfortunately - (5)
- 5 - Mike's stony broket? (5)
- 6 Split accentuated by bust-up, perhaps - (8)
- 7 - composer's given furious glare (5)
- 8 Instant sign of boredom? Time for a look at the future (6,5)
- 10 He may take responsibility if the Ashes are lost (4,7)

**14 Rich uncle (old, not posh) wasted an account? (5)**  
**15 Love having a party - make allowances? (5)**  
**16 Very short of ships in Grimsby, at first? (8)**  
**19 Type of nucleus is more unstable? (6)**  
**21 Film star has role that's different and new? (5)**  
**22 Is it right to interrupt this outrageous modern artist? (5)**

**Solution tomorrow**

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Inside

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